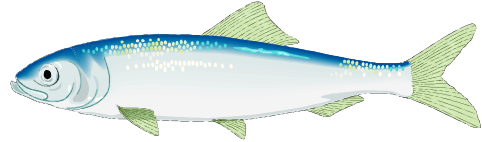


**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director*



Contact:
James Jackson, Area Biologist
Geoff Spalinger, Asst. Area Biologist
Joe Dinnocenzo, Asst. Area Biologist
Brad Fuerst, Fishery Biologist
Phone: (907) 486-1830
Fax: (907) 486-1847

Kodiak Area Office
211 Mission Road
Kodiak, AK. 99615

Date Issued: April 20, 2012
Time: 4:45 p.m.

**KODIAK COMMERCIAL HERRING SAC ROE FISHERY NEWS RELEASE # 06
For Emergency Order #4-FH-K-08-12**

Commercial herring fishing was **extended** for purse seine gear only in that portion of the **Village Islands/Uganik bays sections (UG30 and UG32-34) south of 57° 42.00' N. lat. from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Friday, April 20, 2012.**

As Previously Announced:

Commercial herring fishing **opened** for purse seine gear only in that portion of the **Village Islands/Uganik bays sections (UG30 and UG32-34) south of 57° 41.00' N. lat. from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Friday, April 20, 2012.**

Commercial herring fishing **opened** for purse seine gear only in that portion of the **Village Islands/Uganik bays sections (UG30 and UG32-34) south of 57° 41.00' N. lat. from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Friday, April 20, 2012.**

Commercial herring fishing was **extended** for purse seine gear only in that portion of the **Village Islands/Uganik bays sections (UG30 and UG32-34) south of 57° 42.00' N. lat. from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Friday, April 20, 2012.**

An emergency order (#4-FH-K-01-12 has been issued describing the fishing periods and Guideline Harvest Levels (GHLs) by gear type and by section.

GILLNET GEAR

Fishing periods for **most** gillnet sections will begin at **noon, Sunday, April 15, 2012** and remain **open until further notice**, in **only** the following sections.

-continued-

<u>Afognak Districts:</u>	<u>GHL</u>	<u>Uganik District:</u>	<u>GHL</u>	<u>Alitak District:</u>	<u>GHL</u>
(WA20) Malina Bay	10	(UG20) Viekoda Bay	25	(AL20) Inner Alitak	100
(WA10) Raspberry Strait	10	(UG21) Terror Bay	30	(AL30) Sulua Bay	75
(NA30) Perenosa Bay	10	(UG31) West Uganik Passage	50	(AL40) Lower Olga-Moser	50
<u>Northeast District:</u>		<u>Uyak District:</u>		<u>Eastside District:</u>	
(NE10) Womens Bay	50	(UY32) Browns Lagoon	50	(EA24) Barling Bay	100
<u>Inner Marmot District:</u>		(UY40) Zachar Bay	25	(EA42) Shearwater Bay	75
(IM20) Anton Larsen	15	(UY50) Spiridon Bay	10	(EA44) Inner Kiliuda Bay	50
(IM30) Sharatin Bay	30			(EA51) Inner Ugak Bay	150

PURSE SEINE GEAR

The first fishing period for most sections will begin at noon Sunday, April 15, 2011. Purse seine fishing periods will be **noon to 9:00 p.m. on odd-numbered days** (NINE hour open periods), and **9:00 a.m. to noon on even-numbered days** (THREE hour open periods), followed by a 24 hour closed period in only the following sections:

<u>Afognak Districts:</u>	<u>GHL</u>	<u>Alitak District:</u>	<u>GHL</u>	<u>Eastside District:</u>	<u>GHL</u>
(NA50) Tonki Bay	40	(AL21, 22) Inner and Outer Deadman bays	400	(EA21) Three Saints Bay	75
(SA10-30) Izhut, Kitoi, and MacDonalds Lagoon	100	(AL41) East Upper Olga Bay	75	<u>Inner Marmot District:</u>	
		(AL50) West Upper Olga Bay	75	(IM40) Kizhuyak Bay	150

PURSE SEINE GEAR (DELAYED OPENING) AREAS

The following sections will also be open to purse seine gear, but the initial purse seine fishing period will be delayed. There will be a 24 hour advance notice prior to opening these areas:

<u>Uyak District:</u>	<u>GHL</u>	<u>Eastside District:</u>	<u>GHL</u>
(UY30) Inner Uyak Bay	200	(EA21) Outer Ugak Bay	400

COMBINED GEAR AREAS

The following sections will be open to both purse seine and gillnet gear:

<u>Afognak Districts:</u>	<u>Gillnet GHL</u>	<u>Seine GHL</u>
(SA40) Danger Bay	175	525
<u>Uganik District:</u>		
(UG30, 32-34) Village Is., NE Arm, E Arm, and S Arm Uganik Bay	350	1,350

In combined gear areas, the first gillnet opening will be allowed after the first successful purse seine opening.

Test fishing in the combined Village Islands/Uganik Bay sections and the Danger Bay Section may begin as early as noon April 15. These sections or portions of these sections will open by emergency order from an ADF&G management biologist on the grounds. Fishing

periods and specific areas to be opened in the Village Islands/Uganik Bay sections will be determined inseason. Gear types will be allowed to fish on alternating days, with purse seine gear fished first, once good quality herring are found.

Emergency order fisheries in the Village Islands/Uganik Bay, Inner Uyak Bay, and Danger Bay sections will allow orderly fisheries on high quality herring. Fisheries will only open after test fishing detects fishable quantities of good quality herring (size and roe content). Fisheries may be short in duration (perhaps less than ten minutes for seine gear or as little as five hours for gillnet gear) and in limited areas within a section. ADF&G will be seeking volunteer fishing vessels to make test sets beginning on April 15. Cooperation from fishing vessels and industry technicians is needed to test the quality of the herring in these sections.

EXPLORATORY AREAS

The following sections are designated as EXPLORATORY, and will be open to either gear type, with differential fishing periods by gear type as outlined above for purse seine or gillnet gear:

Afognak Districts:

(WA20) Delphin Bay
(WA40) Bluefox Bay

Alitak District:

(AL60) Geese/Two Headed

Eastside District:

(EA10) Kaiugnak Bay
(EA20) SW Sitkalidak
(EA22) Newman Bay
(EA31) Tanginak Anchorage

Mainland Districts:

(NM20) Inner Kukak Bay
(MM10) Inner Katmai Bay
(MM30) Alinchak Bay

(MM40) Puale Bay
(MM50) Portage Bay
(SM10) Wide Bay

The remainder of the Kodiak Area will stay closed to commercial herring fishing for the entire sac roe season.

Beginning May 1, ADF&G may open any area with remaining herring guideline harvest level to any gear group if the fishery is not likely to result in overharvest of the resource. All Kodiak commercial sac roe herring fishermen that wish to continue fishing after April 30 must be registered with the department. Registration will begin on April 25 and may be accomplished either in the Kodiak fish and game office, or with fish and game personnel available in the field.

Guideline harvest levels and maps of open sections and gear assignments are available at the Kodiak office, in the herring sac roe fishery harvest strategy for the 2012 season. Fishermen are urged to check with their market and test their catch prior to landing herring. Determining if size or roe quality meets processor standards is the responsibility of fishermen and industry. It is anticipated that many small and green fish will be present on the grounds during the initial open fishing periods. Recent fishery information may be obtained by calling the Departments 24-hour record-a-phone at 486-4559.